



April 2005 Edition

Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron

Indiana Wing – Civil Air Patrol

Lieutenant Colonel Larry Lopshire, Commander

Hoosier Native Honored in Squadron Name Change

Greenwood, Indiana – Civil Air Patrol (“CAP”) announced today that the Johnson County Senior Squadron, part of the Indiana Wing, has been renamed the Col. James H. Kasler Senior Squadron. Kasler is a Hoosier native. Born in South Bend, he graduated from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis and later attended Butler University.

The idea for a squadron name change was first brought up in the Fall of 2004. According to squadron commander Lt. Col. Larry Lopshire, “We wanted a name that was not so geographically limiting because we serve all across the State of Indiana.” In searching for a namesake, the squadron wanted to be certain to honor a Hoosier veteran, preferably one from the U.S. Air Force or its predecessor the US Army Air Corps. Lopshire went on to say, “ultimately, research lead to Colonel Kasler, who seemed like a perfect candidate.”

A three-time Air Force Cross recipient, Jim Kasler served in WWII as a B-29 gunner seeing combat over Japan. After the war, he attended Butler University for three years before entering the Air Force pilot training program in 1950. During his service in Korea, Kasler became an ace pilot. On August 8, 1966, while flying a mission over North Vietnam, he was shot down and captured. He was held at the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” with other such notables as James Stockdale and John McCain. Enduring frequent torture, Kasler was released on March 4, 1973 after spending 6 1/2 years in captivity.

The Indiana Wing Commander, Colonel Charles Greenwood, formally approved the name change during a squadron visit on February 19th.

An official name change ceremony is planned for April 23, 2005 during the annual Indiana Wing awards luncheon.

Colonel Kasler, along with his wife, will be visiting with our squadron on May 14. Please make note of this



Indiana Wing Commander, Col Charles Greenwood (right) addresses the squadron on February 19th as Lt Col Larry Lopshire looks on. (Photo: CPT Tim Turner)

special meeting date. As previously announced the squadron meeting date was moved due to a wing-wide SAREX scheduled in Evansville for May 21.

In the coming weeks a new book is being published about the life and career of Colonel Kasler. “*Tempered Steel: The Three Wars Of Triple Air Force Cross Winner Jim Kasler*” was written by Perry Luckett and Charles Byler.

If you have a copy of this new book, Colonel Kasler has offered to autograph it for you following the May 14 meeting. This will certainly be a meeting not to miss! ?

Uniform Change

Maxwell AFB, AL -- The Air Force has approved a proposal to allow the wear of grade insignia on both sides of the woodland BDU collar---remove the CAP cutout and add grade.

The NEC (National Executive Committee of CAP) had previously requested Air Force permission to remove the embroidered CAP cutout from the left collar of the BDU

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Training Facility Project

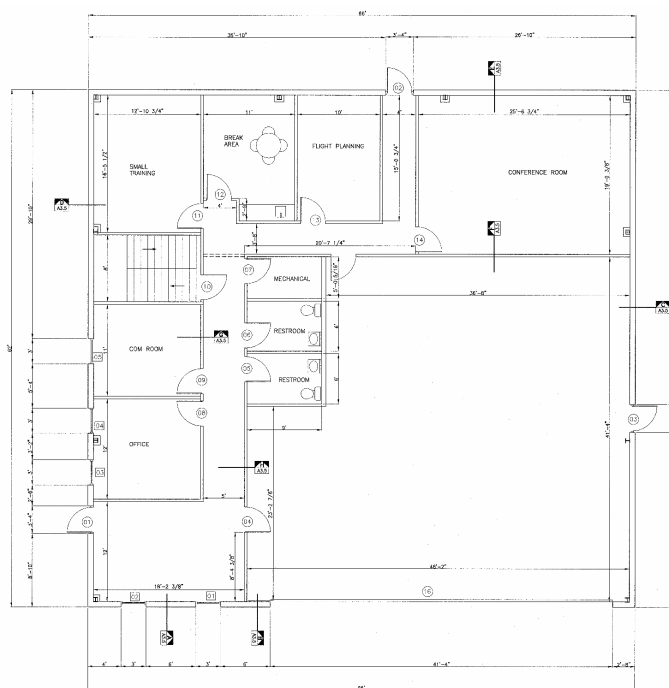
If you've missed more than a couple of meetings, you might have also missed the beginning of what might be one of the most significant projects ever undertaken by the squadron. In early 2004, Indiana Wing Commander Colonel Charles Greenwood asked that our squadron investigate what would be required to construct our own facility at the Greenwood Municipal Airport.

One of the central goals of CAP is to always be ready to respond when called. Adequate training of all CAP personnel is a key ongoing concern for command personnel. To support this need, CAP members from throughout the State of Indiana gather several times per year for the purpose of practicing those skills necessary to meet our various mission requirements. Centrally located within the State of Indiana, the new facility will become an ideal staging ground for any necessary training or actual emergency services efforts, unequalled by any other location within the state. It will also provide facilities for the training and coordination of local, state, and national EMS, fire, and law enforcement agencies.

Additionally, the ongoing recruiting efforts of CAP will be enhanced with the addition of this facility. Prospective members will have the chance to see first-hand that they would be working with a serious, world-class organization committed to the community, state, and country.

So, now the capital campaign begins. . . . that means we need some money! It is estimated that costs to build the facility will be approximately \$200,000.00. It is our job to find that money.

Approximately 10 sources of grant funds have been identified to date. Of course, the grant process can take many long months of work with no resulting funding in the end. The squadron is especially interested in direct donations from corporations either of funds or labor and materials. If your company might be able to assist in any way with this project, please contact 2LT Tony Lafata or CPT Tim Turner.
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Initial first floor plans developed by Baxter & SET Engineering LLC

Uniform (continued from page 1)

uniform and wear the grade insignia on both sides of the collar in the same manner as the active duty forces.

With permission granted, the Winter National Board approved the change effective immediately with a mandatory wear date of September 30, 2005. Members now wear grade insignia on both sides of the BDU collar---remove the CAP cutout and add grade. This is approved for both cadets and senior members. Any member who does not hold grade continues to wear the CAP on both sides of the collar. ?

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Heavy Rains Bring Flooding

In late December and early January, Indiana experienced significantly greater than normal rainfall. As a result, there was severe flooding throughout the state. In Central Indiana, the White River was particularly hard hit.

On January 14th, our CAP squadron took to the air to provide video reconnaissance of the White River flood damage to Johnson County Emergency Services. Mission Pilot trainee CPT Dennis Ouellette, Mission Observer LTC Larry Lopshire, and Mission Scanner CPT Tim Turner surveyed that portion of the White



Photo: CPT Tim Turner



Photo: CPT Tim Turner

River from just south of I-465 to just south of State Road 144.

A DVD of footage taken from our aircraft was provided to Johnson County Emergency Services for their analysis. The board was pleased with the results of our efforts. They are seeing the value our squadron brings to the community.

Colonel Lopshire serves as a member of the Johnson County Emergency Management Advisory Council. ?

Greenwood SAREX!

Greenwood Municipal Airport (HFY) will host the first Indiana Wing SAREX of 2005. Squadrons from all across the wing will descend upon Greenwood beginning Friday, April 29th. Most aircrews will begin arriving Saturday.

Because this SAREX is being held at Greenwood, this is our opportunity to shine. Captain Steve Cuthbert has been hard at work planning out many aspects of how things will be set up. It will be the responsibility of each member of the Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron to demonstrate the utmost professionalism during this exercise. ?

Wing Awards Luncheon

Various squadrons and individuals will be honored for their 2004 accomplishments during the annual Indiana Wing Awards Ceremony scheduled for April 23rd.

Several members of our squadron have been nominated for various awards. The squadron is a candidate for Squadron of the Year honors. All squadron members are highly encouraged to attend the event.

12:00pm – Saturday, April 23
Rick's Café Boatyard
4050 Dandy Trail
Indianapolis, IN 46254
Next to Eagle Creek Airport

Please make your reservations as early as possible! ?

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Member Profile: Lt Col Tony Cecere

How do you even begin to describe a man like Tony Cecere? Originally from New York, Tony graduated with a BS in Chemistry from Clarkson College of Technology in Potsdam, NY. He worked one year for Eastman Kodak developing photographic compounds before entering the U.S. Navy flight program.

Tony earned his wings on January 22, 1957, just three days after his marriage to Carolyn Callery in New York City. He was then stationed to Patrol Squadron 10 (VP 10) in Brunswick, ME. During his two years with the unit, there were two main deployments. First was ice patrols based out of Argentia, Newfoundland. Second was a deployment with the 6th fleet in the Mediterranean.

During one particular mission in November 1957, because Tony was off flying for the Navy, Mrs. Cecere had to drive herself to the hospital in order to give birth to their first daughter. They had three children in all with another daughter born in 1958 and a son in 1962.

During his deployment with the 6th fleet, Syria threatened to invade Lebanon. Tony's unit was sent to operate from the Beirut airport. Their mission was to patrol the eastern Mediterranean for any Soviet submarines that may be tracking our carriers. They lived

under their planes until the Navy could position a supply ship nearby.

Tony returned to school in 1959 to begin earning a MS in Fuel Technology from Penn State. After finishing in 1962, it was back to the Navy where was stationed at Goodyear Aerospace in Akron, OH. His group was responsible for overseeing Goodyear's performance on Navy contracts.

Returning to civilian life in 1966, Tony started a career with Allison (now Rolls Royce) in Indianapolis. At the same time, he was active in the Naval Reserve as a P-2 pilot. He retired from the Navy in 1979 and from Allison in 1998.

Tony has always been an active volunteer working with the Indianapolis Museum of Military History, the Greater Indianapolis Literacy League, and others. He joined Civil Air Patrol in 1999.

He is a CFI and a Designated Airworthiness Representative. After joining CAP he became a F5 pilot and F5 check pilot. He earned his mission pilot wings in 2001 and is very active in the CAP Counterdrug Program. After serving as Safety Officer for five years, Tony agreed last fall to assume the duties of Squadron Deputy Commander.

It is not a secret that our squadron is very fortunate to have someone with the character, strength, and leadership of Tony Cecere.

Next time you see Tony, ask him to tell you some of his Navy stories. There are some very interesting ones. ?

IMPORTANT DATES

April

Sat	16	9:00a	Monthly Squadron Meeting
Sat	23	tbd	Wing Awards Luncheon Rick's Café Boatyard

April 29 – May 1 **Greenwood SAREX**
Please be there!

May

Sat	14	9:00a	Monthly Squadron Meeting <u>Colonel Kasler to attend!</u> <u>This is a date change!</u>
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May 20 – 22 **Evansville DR Exercise**

Johnson County Senior Squadron

Commander:	Lt. Col. Larry Lopshire
Deputy Commander:	Lt. Col. Tony Cecere

For member exclusive information, refer to our squadron group on Yahoo!Groups

This newsletter is published for the members of the Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron, Indiana Wing, Civil Air Patrol.
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